

LYNCHBURG CITY COUNCIL

Agenda Item Summary

MEETING DATE: **December 14, 2004, Work Session**

AGENDA ITEM NO.:

CONSENT:

REGULAR: **X**

CLOSED SESSION:

(Confidential)

ACTION:

INFORMATION: **X**

ITEM TITLE: **Boat Ramp at the Foot of Seventh Street (This will be a written report only—no oral presentation is planned.)**

RECOMMENDATION: This report is for informational purposes. No action is requested of City Council at this time.

SUMMARY: On May 25, 2004, City Council directed staff to proceed with plans to open the boat ramp at the base of Seventh Street for public use. At the May work session Council requested that staff report back during the month of December to update Council on the general use of the boat ramp.

The boat ramp officially opened for public use on July 1, 2004. The following policies were established with the consent of Council:

- The ramp is open sunrise to sunset

- No trailers are allowed

- No fishing from the bank

- Other park rules apply, such as no alcohol or loitering

Since the opening Griffin Pipe has maintained daily logs of ramp use and staff have visited the site for maintenance and inspection. The plant manager of Griffin Pipe, Mr. Bob Ingram, and the Director of Parks and Recreation have also maintained consistent and open communication.

The log books from Griffin Pipe indicate consistent use of the ramp during the months of July-September. The logs indicate that the ramp is visited one to ten times per day. As expected, use is heavier on weekends and use has decreased with the onset of colder weather.

Minor and infrequent problems were reported by Griffin Pipe. There were occasional incidents of boaters with trailers attempting to use the ramp and several people wanting to fish from the bank. The Lynchburg Police Department reports no problems or incidents. A clarification of policy was needed to allow Lynchburg public safety staff to utilize the ramp with a trailer for training and rescue purposes. Maintenance staff reports no problems with litter and find the ramp in excellent condition. Anecdotal comments made by citizens to Parks and Recreation staff are positive. Citizens enjoy the convenience of the ramp for short upriver paddles to fish and for recreational purposes. Some use the ramp as the starting place for longer downriver trips. The logs also indicate that some people use the area to view the river. The parking lot is easily accommodating current use.

Both Mr. Ingram and Parks and Recreation staff consider the opening of the boat ramp a successful project. Open communication between Griffin Pipe and the City is noted by both parties as the key to continuing success. Parks and Recreation thanks Griffin Pipe for their stewardship in assisting in keeping the boat ramp area safe and for citizen enjoyment.

PRIOR ACTION(S): Work Session, March 30, 2004
Work Session, May 25, 2004

FISCAL IMPACT: None

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REVIEWED BY: lkp